

Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Rosa Ericka Salvatierra , I'm 30 years old, from Guatemala, and I have three children. I'm a member of Hartford Deportation Defense. I'm in favor of **HB6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.**

For my children that weren't born here, it has been a little difficult because when I brought them to the doctor they asked me for check stubs to apply for financial assistance and sometimes they would reach a limit where they couldn't see me if I hadn't paid this amount. Now, thanks to the work of the legislature and our campaign of the last few years, they have access to HUSKY without regard for their immigration status.

In my case, two weeks ago I got an ultrasound that I had to pay for in cash, but they won't give me the results until I renew the financial assistance with the social worker at the clinic. To renew I need a letter from my boss and it hasn't been easy to get.

For adults as well as children it's important to have health insurance.

We can't go get checked out because of the trouble we will have if it turns out to be too expensive. One time I had to go to an emergency clinic and when I got the bill it was more than \$500 for only one visit. Another time I had to take the children to the emergency room and I got a bill for \$700 for each of them. One time my husband got hit in the street and an ambulance came and took him to the hospital, and we got a bill for \$2,000.

We need you to support **HB6616**. Health is the most important thing. Without our health, we can't work to give a good start to our families.

Thank you,  
*Ericka Salvatierra*